

Kentucky Agriculture Resource Development Authority

Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2002

The Kentucky Agriculture Resource Development Authority met on Tuesday, March 12, 2002 at the Kentucky State University Cooperative Extension Building in Frankfort, Kentucky. Sharon Furches called the meeting to order.

Members Present:

Dr. Harold Benson; John R. Fritz; Keith Harris; Larry Jeffries; Scott Keugel; Doug Lawson; David Sparrow designee for Dean Scott Smith; Glen Massengale; Peter McNeill; Patrick Jennings designee for Sam Moore; Bill Payne; Commissioner Billy Ray Smith; Will Southerland; David Switzer; Bettie Wallace; Sharon Furches

Members Absent:

Terry Ashby; Morris R. Cave; Senator Ernie Harris; Genie Akin Hart; Hoppy Lovell; George Martin; Billy Joe Miles; Terry Rhodes; Representative Roger Thomas; Martha Thompson

Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy Staff Present:

John-Mark Hack; Joel Neaveill; Jennifer Purvis

Welcome and Opening Remarks:

Dr. Harold Benson, Director of Kentucky State University Land-Grant Programs, welcomed the members as host of this meeting.

Scott Kuegel, Education and Technology Committee Chair, talked about writing grants for Phase I dollars. There was discussion on rule changes and some place for help to write grants. Concern was expressed on how dollars are being spent, too much is going to individuals in counties – should encourage using dollars regionally. He said we are blessed here in Kentucky to grow pretty much anything we need. Markets need to know where things are going so there is no waste. We need to have counties within a region come together as one rather than individual counties.

Sharon Furches talked about how to encourage farmers/County Councils to come together for this. Put our dollars together to make one large request. We need an outline for filling out applications. Need another seminar on how to. She asked the question “are we doing the right thing?” We cannot force the farmers to come to the seminars. We need to encourage them to do so.

Joel Neaveill: Grant Writing Seminars – The Kentucky Center for Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship recently conducted a Phase I educational seminar held at Kentucky State University. He talked about an Application Task Force, consisting of County Council members and select Agriculture Extension Agents working on what can be streamlined in the application process.

Scott Keugel: Kentucky stores – use Kentucky grown – We need to convince them to buy from Kentucky farmers. We had purple colored broccoli that got overlooked for California Broccoli. We need to encourage stores to buy Kentucky Grown.

Commissioner Smith: Promote Buy Kentucky – talked about Logo campaign to identify Buy Kentucky. There must be a certification on Kentucky products. Must have quality and criteria. We need some kind of licensing procedure to pick the good products. The area of concern is that we need one Kentucky logo for everything. KDA will have a task force of consumers who will choose the logo. We need a statewide marketing campaign so wherever you see the logo you will know it was grown in Kentucky. This helps with foreign trade relations.

Scott Keugel: told us he used his logo and that people did buy more when they knew it was locally (Kentucky) grown.

Larry Jeffries: Chair, Legislative Committee, indicated that the budget is the # 1 headline. Everything gets condensed down in the last three weeks. We have been listening to different county councils. Ag Development Funds are on the ground and is working well. Rockcastle County has 100 applications for forage. If we can get through the next 3 weeks we will see a positive future, we can come together, like Scott said. We need to look long range for Kentucky Agriculture. We need to be getting some kind of daily notifications. We need to be on top of things in legislation.

Commissioner Smith: Commented that he has never seen agriculture more united than it is now. “We are the envy of all other 48 states”. Not another state in the nation can compare to unity that Kentucky’s agricultural community has right now. We have a lot of opportunity right now we just need to stay united. There are going to be attempts to make us spend our monies elsewhere, but we need to refuse temptation. We need to make agriculture grow more in Kentucky.

Sharon Furches: In February, KARDA sent letters to every legislator urging the General Assembly to support the continued level of funding for agriculture from Tobacco Settlement funds. This letter was a joint letter from representatives of the original “Unified Plan” group that led efforts in 2000 to secure funding for agriculture.

John-Mark Hack: The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board has received 582 high priority applications for funding. All except 14 have been approved so long as they fit procedure. Approximately 12% of those have withdrawn or changed.

Sharon Furches: So much of this has come with our extension folks; they have been the key to getting information to and from farmers and us; please send thanks to them.

John-Mark Hack: The Agricultural Development Board meets Friday, March 15. They have seen a slow-down on application submitted for state funds, but have seen county applications pick up. Things are smoothing out, but are continuing to look for ways to improve system. Governor Patton and Commissioner Smith, along with the Board, Legislators, and county council members are unveiling the Board's Long-Term Plan for Agricultural Development called "Cultivating Rural Prosperity" which outlines a good strategic procedure on how to use these funds while using the tools available to them. It includes working with private/commercial lending to give money to untraditional ideas instead of traditional planning.

There was considerable debate regarding the proposed legislation to allow gaming at Kentucky racetracks.

The meeting adjourned at 3:46